

## CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

<b>Project Name:</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Gas Line Bore
<b>Proposed Implementation Date:</b>	April 8, 2007
<b>Proponent:</b>	Northwest Energy
<b>Location:</b>	Section 24 T2S R9E
<b>County:</b>	Park
<b>Encumbered Trust</b>	Common Schools

### I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

During the spring runoff, Livingston's Ninth Street Bridge experienced significant undermining resulting in one pier sinking approximately 18 inches. NorthWestern Energy currently utilizes this bridge to provide means of crossing the Yellowstone River with a 2" steel line. This line serves approximately thirty homes on the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Island.

Given the amount of undermining of the piers and structural instabilities associated with this Park County has decided to remove the old bridge in anticipation of the spring runoff. Historically the Yellowstone River rises dramatically between April 1 and May 1 each year. There is large concern that if the bridge were to fail the gas line would be compromised, the temporary Bailey bridge constructed above it would also fail and cause catastrophic flooding through a portion of the city as well as the island itself.

Since there is no permanent structure available NorthWestern Energy has chosen to utilize a directional bore under the Yellowstone River to maintain service to approximately 30 existing natural gas customers while accommodating the needs of Park County.

The bore will occur approximately fifty feet north of the existing bridge. NorthWestern Energy will utilize 2" steel pipe with an abrasion resistant overcoat to maintain cathodic protection of the steel gas distribution system on the island. All welds will be prepped and coated with Denso Protal 7200 Epoxy coating according to the manufacturers recommendation.

### II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

#### 1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED:

*Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.*

April 2, 2009, Park County Commission, Public Informational Meeting regarding the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge. The minutes of the meeting are available at <http://www.parkcounty.org/> Pages 10 – 14 for the week of March 30, 2009.

The Natural Heritage Species of Concern

#### 2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:

Section 404 Permit, Section 10 Permit, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

#### 3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

No action – Do not issue a license to allow boring and placement of a gas line under the Yellowstone River.

Issue a Land Use License to allow boring and placement of a gas line under the Yellowstone River, with the requirement that the Proponent submit an as built survey and easement application for the pipeline.

### III. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- *RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.*
- *Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.*
- *Enter "NONE" If no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.*

#### 4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE:

*Consider the presence of fragile, compactable or unstable soils. Identify unusual geologic features. Specify any special reclamation considerations. Identify any cumulative impacts to soils.*

The gas line would pass approximately 50 ft. under the Yellowstone River through layers of competent sandstone & fractured sandstone/siltstone. No impact would be expected.

#### 5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION:

*Identify important surface or groundwater resources. Consider the potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality. Identify cumulative effects to water resources.*

No effect on water would be expected.

#### 6. AIR QUALITY:

*What pollutants or particulate would be produced? Identify air quality regulations or zones (e.g. Class I air shed) the project would influence. Identify cumulative effects to air quality.*

Air quality is good. No impacts to air quality are expected due to this easement.

#### 7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:

*What changes would the action cause to vegetative communities? Consider rare plants or cover types that would be affected. Identify cumulative effects to vegetation.*

No vegetation will be affected.

#### 8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:

*Consider substantial habitat values and use of the area by wildlife, birds or fish. Identify cumulative effects to fish and wildlife.*

The Natural Heritage Species of Concern Report sited Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout, and the long-billed Curlew as Species of Concern. This License affects neither species habit and no impact would be expected.

#### 9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:

*Consider any federally listed threatened or endangered species or habitat identified in the project area. Determine effects to wetlands. Consider Sensitive Species or Species of special concern. Identify cumulative effects to these species and their habitat.*

The Natural Heritage Species of Concern Report sited Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout, and the long-billed Curlew as Species of Concern. This easement affects neither species habit and no impact would be expected.

#### 10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:

*Identify and determine effects to historical, archaeological or paleontological resources.*

No sites would be expected.

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**11. AESTHETICS:**

*Determine if the project is located on a prominent topographic feature, or may be visible from populated or scenic areas. What level of noise, light or visual change would be produced? Identify cumulative effects to aesthetics.*

There will be no visible impact of the construction.

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**12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:**

*Determine the amount of limited resources the project would require. Identify other activities nearby that the project would affect. Identify cumulative effects to environmental resources.*

None.

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**13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA:**

*List other studies, plans or projects on this tract. Determine cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of current private, state or federal actions in the analysis area, and from future proposed state actions in the analysis area that are under MEPA review (scoped) or permitting review by any state agency.*

Environmental Assessment of the Removal of the Ninth St. Bridge, Livingston, Park County, MT, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Region Three, Bozeman, MT, April 2009.

9<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Debris Removal, Park County, MT, DNRC Trust Lands Division, Bozeman Unit, April 2009.

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IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.</li><li>• Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.</li><li>• Enter "NONE" if no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.</li></ul>

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**14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:**

*Identify any health and safety risks posed by the project.*

**No Action Alternative:** The 30 residents and businesses currently served by the gas line supplying the island could be without a gas supply if the gas line supplying the island were to be compromised by action taken on the bridge or high water.

**Action Alternative:** Risks to health and human safety are not expected.

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**15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:**

*Identify how the project would add to or alter these activities.*

None

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**16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:**

*Estimate the number of jobs the project would create, move or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to the employment market.*

The proposal would have no affect on quantity and distribution of employment.

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**17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES:**

*Estimate tax revenue the project would create or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to taxes and revenue.*

None

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**18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES:**

*Estimate increases in traffic and changes to traffic patterns. What changes would be needed to fire protection, police, schools, etc.? Identify cumulative effects of this and other projects on government services*

None

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**19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:**

*List State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, and other zoning or management plans, and identify how they would affect this project.*

None

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**20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES:**

*Identify any wilderness or recreational areas nearby or access routes through this tract. Determine the effects of the project on recreational potential within the tract. Identify cumulative effects to recreational and wilderness activities.*

This project will have no effect on recreational activities.

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**21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING:**

*Estimate population changes and additional housing the project would require. Identify cumulative effects to population and housing.*

None

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**22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:**

*Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.*

No disruption or affect on communities should be expected.

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**23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:**

*How would the action affect any unique quality of the area?*

This project would not affect the unique quality of the area.

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**24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:**

*Estimate the return to the trust. Include appropriate economic analysis. Identify potential future uses for the analysis area other than existing management. Identify cumulative economic and social effects likely to occur as a result of the proposed action.*

Once construction is complete NorthWestern Energy will provide an "as built" survey and purchase a permanent easement the proceeds of which will benefit the Common School Trust.

<b>EA Checklist Prepared By:</b>	<b>Name:</b> Craig Campbell/s/	<b>Date:</b> 4/07/09
	<b>Title:</b> Bozeman Unit Manager	

## V. FINDING

### 25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

I have selected the alternative to issue a Land Use License to permit North Western Energy to bore and place a gas pipe line under the Yellowstone River. The issuance of this license will require the Proponent to submit an as built survey and easement application to DNRC. Upon receipt of their easement application, provided there are no changed circumstances, DNRC will recommend that the Land Board approve the pipeline easement.

### 26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

The potential impacts of the proposed actions are insignificant related to the likely impacts of bridge failure and rupture of the gas line supported by the bridge. The analysis indicates that there will be no adverse direct, indirect or cumulative impacts from the proposed action. This analysis will also serve as the basis for the easement application, as no additional effects would result from that issuance.

### 27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

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EIS

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More Detailed EA

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No Further Analysis

<b>EA Checklist Approved By:</b>	<b>Name:</b> D.J. Bakken (for Garry Williams)
	<b>Title:</b> Acting CLO Manager
<b>Signature:</b> /s/ Darrel J. Bakken	<b>Date</b> 4/8/2009